



New York Green Job Corps Initiative

The economic crisis, environmental pollution and global warming, and the plight of families in poverty are enormous challenges in need of urgent attention. While New York is a wealthy state, we have the widest gap between the rich and poor of any state in the nation. We are also home to several upstate urban areas with the highest poverty rates in the United States: According to statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, our official Black youth unemployment rate for 16-to-19 year-olds rose to the Great Depression level of 32.3% in 2008.

FPWA's *Green Job Corps* Initiative is a model for building a green collar workforce here in New York and across the country. The concept paper for Green Job Corps was developed in collaboration with STRIVE New York, a member of FPWA located in East Harlem that helps hard-to-employ people gain job skills. STRIVE's career advancement programs empower their clients to leapfrog into sustainable employment that pays a living wage. In focusing its job training models on the emerging "green" economy and the high technology sector, STRIVE is in an ideal position to make a significant impact in stimulating economic growth, improving energy efficiency, and creating solid pathways out of poverty for those facing the greatest barriers to work.

Our *Green Job Corps* Initiative is an Action Plan that would produce the workforce needed on a larger scale to complete the public works projects that was outlined in President Obama's economic recovery proposal for the United States:

"President-elect Barack Obama today proposed an economic recovery act that spends billions of dollars to make public buildings energy-efficient, to rebuild the nation's crumbling highways, to renovate aging school buildings, to extend high-speed Internet to underserved areas and to modernize hospitals." ...His plan includes: 'A massive effort' to make federal buildings energy-efficient by replacing aging heating systems and installing efficient light bulbs. Obama said the effort would save taxpayers 'billions of dollars each year' and put people back to work." (Source: [The Washington Post](#), December 6, 2008, "Obama Offers Highlights of His Economic Stimulus Plan")

One early success for FPWA's New York Green Pathways Out of Poverty (G-POP) team was to initiate and fund \$7 million for a Green Job Corps to provide training and subsidized employment in green jobs to low-income New Yorkers. FPWA continues to monitor and conduct advocacy to ensure that these funds are implemented as intended. We are also advocating that welfare recipients, the unemployed and other low-income New Yorkers be targeted for 10-15% of the jobs created by the Green Jobs/Green New York Act.

For more information on FPWA's Green Jobs Corps initiative contact Nicole Lavan, nlavan@fpwa.org or ph. (212) 801-1376.